

Goals for Rocklin in 2004

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As always, I consider it an honor to serve my community as a Rocklin City Council member, and I am additionally honored to be chosen as Mayor for 2004. The year ahead holds both opportunities and challenges and as residents you may be wondering how we will balance the two for the benefit of our community. Therefore, I want to take this opportunity to outline my goals as Mayor into four categories for your review.

1) Budget/Services: In this next year of fiscal uncertainty with the state deficit negatively impacting city budgets, I want to make sure we as a council concentrate on prioritizing our budget process to first ensure that we include the proper level of services to our citizens. To that end, we should be able to keep our current levels of personnel to perform Rocklin's needs and stay even with our growth for the Police and Fire departments. The safety of Rocklin's citizens is of the utmost importance when determining our responsibilities.

2) Community Service Centers: During the past several years the City of Rocklin has been able to acquire funding through a combination of resident taxes, developer fees, state, local and federal funding and internal budgeting to be able to begin building service structures to keep pace with the growth needs of Rocklin. 2004 is the year when many of these centers will be completed or substantially developed. Another goal is to ensure that these public service centers are completed and fully operational and staffed.

Our main new structures include: 1) our new police station - started in 2003, to be completed in early 2005 (next to Rocklin City Hall); 2) a brand new Fire Station #3 - to be completed late 2004 (near Oracle); 3) a new train station (next to Rocklin Road and the railroad tracks); 4) development of the next park - starting in late Spring 2004 (near Oracle); and, 5) the new gymnasium which is a joint project between the City and the Rocklin Unified School District - to be completed in September 2004 (next to Rocklin Elementary School).

3) Master Plan/Growth: Over the past year a group of Rocklin citizens and City staff have been updating the Master Plan for the City of Rocklin and its associated housing element. This group has done an outstanding job of updating the plan to fit the needs and desires of what we want Rocklin to become. This process will conclude with public hearings before both the Planning Commission and City Council this winter/spring. My goal is to ensure that this plan is followed by staff, our Planning Commission and the City Council when determining new project sites in Rocklin.

I would also like to say a few things regarding growth in Rocklin. Over the past several years as new residents have moved into our community, we have received comments from them about the perception that we are growing too much and that they expected Rocklin would be a "small town." I would like to note that for some time Rocklin has been projected to grow to approximately 70,000 to 75,000. Rocklin's current population

is approximately 45,000. Realistically, residents should expect some additional growth going forward.

Additionally, I would also like to say that our job as City Council is to ensure that the citizens' level of service does not decline with that growth. My goal will be to continue that responsibility of maintaining the level of services to our citizens. As I look around to other cities in this area, I consider Rocklin fortunate to have the level (and quality of personnel) of police, fire, parks & recreation, landscaping, maintenance, roads, teen centers, and preschool services. Additionally, our city service (and staffs) in the areas of building, engineering, planning, finance, fleet services, information systems, human resources are second to none. Finally, our administrative staff, including the City Manager (and staff), City Clerk, and City Attorney (and staff) are helpful, resourceful and the best in the area. Of course, our schools are top notch and the Rocklin Unified School District does a wonderful job of providing those educational services for our children's future.

4) Public Access/Service: Finally, my goal as Mayor is to ensure that we as City staff and as City Council provide the public with access to information, services and input into decision making to effectively shape Rocklin's future. Our doors should always be open to your needs. We should strive to listen to respectful criticisms as well as compliments to our public service and be grateful we live in this great City of Rocklin.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of representing Rocklin.

For more information or to contact the Mayor or a City Council representative, visit our website at www.rocklin.ca.us or call us at 916-625-5000.